

40 PEOPLE KILLED
IN N. Y. C. WRECK
AT AMHERST, OHIO

Forty More Are Injured—Three
Trains, Including Twentieth
Century, Limited, in Colli-
sion.

CAUSE OF CRASH UNKNOWN

Twentieth Century Said to Have
Ploughed into Wreckage Re-
sulting from Tail-End Colli-
sion of Two Trains Ahead of
It.

Cleveland, March 29.—With at least 20
persons dead and more than 40 injured,
federal, state and railroad agents have
begun an investigation into the cause that
led, early today, to one of the most dis-
astrous wrecks in the history of the New
York Central system.

Three trains, including the Central's
Twentieth Century Limited, and two sections of No.
85, known as the Chicago-Pittsburgh Limited,
eastbound, were in collision near
Amherst, Ohio, 47 miles west of Cleve-
land.

Reports generally credited are that the
first and second sections of No. 86 were
proceeding at a rapid rate, at some point
only a mile apart when the second section
crashed into the first section, and the
Twentieth Century ploughed into the
wreckage of the first two trains, spread-
ing over from the parallel tracks.

The coaches and engines of No. 85 were
toppled over and wreckage was piled
thirty feet in the air. Two cars were
crushed to smithereens. Fourteen coaches
were overturned.

The Twentieth Century, notwithstanding
its impact with the debris from the other
trains, was severely damaged and pro-
ceeded on its journey. Its passengers un-
injured except for a severe shaking up.
A heavy fog from Lake Erie had settled
over northern Ohio and it was still dark
when the wreck occurred. This, with the
alleged failure of a towerman to dis-
cuss under the rules, was ascribed
by some railroad officials as the cause
of the wreck. The towerman, it was said,
had been without sleep most of the time
since Sunday night, his wife being ill
and requiring his attention when he was
not on duty.

A block signal set suddenly and without
warning against a train speeding east-
ward following in the next block is the
basis of the doubt that existed to-night
as to the real cause of the wreck. W. F.
Schaff, district superintendent of the New
York Central lines, said today:

"The towerman can have nothing to
do with the cause of this wreck. The
explanation lies between the engineers
and the block signal system.

"We tested out the block signal sys-
tem this morning after the wreck and
found it working perfectly. After the
wreck Engineer Hess and his brakeman,
A. M. Gates, with brakeman William
Thompson of the Twentieth Century Limited,
walked back to the signal which
Hess drove by, they all said they found
the signal was red, or blocked, then."

Scenes of terrible confusion followed
the catastrophe, which occurred shortly
after 3:00 a. m. Many of the injured,
plunged in the wreckage, called piteously
for help as uninjured passengers,
half clad, emerged from the wreckage and
joined with trainmen and others in
rescue work. A fire among the wreckage
provided the first light. Firemen
from Amherst were among the first ar-
rivals and soon extinguished the flames.
The fire was in one coach of train No.
86. General Manager Moon, in an official
statement, said this coach was a
"modern solid steel coach." Passengers
and others who were on the scene to-
day did not agree as to the correctness
of this statement, many of them contend-
ing the coach was of wooden construction.
Those who disputed the assertion
that the coaches were all of solid steel
pointed to the fact that "death coach"
as they termed it, was torn into small
fragments which burst like tinder.

Hospitals in Lorain and Elyria to-night
were filled with injured and it generally
was believed the death list would be
increased. Hospital trains were run from
Cleveland, Elyria, and Lorain to the
scene of the wreck and physicians and
ambulance men were rushed from all these
points. Hundreds of villagers and farm-
ers from Amherst and vicinity did heroic
work in caring for the dead, dying and
injured. The little morgue at Amherst
was quickly filled, but other buildings
were made available. Most of the bodies
were mangled beyond recognition and
in some cases identification may be im-
possible. Private homes were also
thrown open and many were utilized
pending removal of the injured to Elyria
and Lorain hospitals.

The Twentieth Century Limited was
wrecked on June 21, 1904, at Mentor,
Ohio, about 20 miles east of Cleveland.
In that disaster 19 persons lost their
lives. The New York Central at that
time was just inaugurating its fast ser-
vice shortening the time in trips between
New York and Chicago and the Twen-
tieth Century was making its second
run under the new fast time schedule.
A maniac, it was asserted by railroad
officials, turned a switch that caused the
Mentor wreck.

The wreck today, however, was far
more disastrous in loss of life and in-
jury.

At 3:00 p. m. D. C. Moon, general man-
ager of the New York Central Railroad com-
pany, issued the following statement:
"About 2:30 o'clock this morning first
No. 86, the Chicago-Pittsburgh passenger
train, was stopped at the interlocking
tower at Amherst, Ohio. Shortly after
the train started to proceed and was mov-
ing at a speed of about five to ten miles
(Continued on page 40)

CARRANZA GIVES U. S.
PERMISSION TO USE
MEXICAN RAILROAD

Thus Solves One of the Most Serious Problems in
the Pursuit of Villa—Shipments to Troops at
Front Will Be Begun at Once—No Official
News from Gen. Pershing's Army Except
Brief Statement That Bandit Is Among
Friends in Santa Mari Valley.

Washington, March 29.—One of the
army's most serious problems in hunting
Villa was solved today when General
Carranza promptly granted the renewed
request of the state department for per-
mission to use the Mexican Northwestern
railroad in carrying out the pursuit.
General Carranza's answer was in
reply to a message from John L.
Rogers, special agent of the United
States at Queretaro, saying the head of
the de facto government agreed to the
commercial use of the line. Officials here
assumed he would be equally prompt in
notifying his officers on the border and
that General Funston might begin ship-
ments to-morrow.

Although the army will proceed to use
the railroad on a commercial basis, which
is construed here as meaning that all
service shall be paid for at regular rates,
the state department will negotiate
with Carranza to bring about a more
complete understanding as to just
what he has agreed to. Today's re-
sponse is regarded as being satisfactory
in a measure, but it is not sufficiently
definite. It may be too that in order to
assure the arrival and delivery of sup-
plies shipped to points along the line Gen-
eral Funston will desire to place guards
on the trains.

War department officials were greatly
relieved by the removal of the necessity
for maintaining a motor truck supply
line over desert roads for a distance of
more than 200 miles. A cloud burst or
great storm might make the roads im-
passable for a considerable space of time,
cutting off the troops from their source
of supplies at the border.

While the physical conditions of the
Mexican Northwestern are not good, many
bridges having been destroyed during
the years of revolution in Mexico, army
engineers should have little difficulty in
keeping it open.

Aside from the railroad problem, de-
tails of the protocol suggested by Gen-
eral Carranza remain to be worked out
through diplomatic channel. State de-
partment officials indicate, however,
that there is no reason for haste in this
connection. As was the case when
American troops crossed into Mexico in
pursuit of Geronimo, the Apache out-
law, years ago, the formal agreement may
not be completed until the expedition has
accomplished its purpose and returned.

It will serve, however, as the legal basis
for adjustment of all claims arising out
of the use of American troops to pur-
sue Villa.

In Mexico the agreement is under-
stood to have another object. General
Carranza is said to desire its per-
fect-

tion as a definite and binding under-
standing with the United States which
he can show to his people in support of
his statement that no sovereign right of
his country has been surrendered or
violated.

There was no military news to-day
from the border or from the expedition-
ary columns.

Medical reports of extensive sickness
among the troops at the front. The re-
gion in which they are operating is de-
scribed as healthy and the men of the
expeditionary force are thoroughly ac-
climated. No reports of casualties or
epidemics have been received beyond the
 terse message today saying that a
trooper of the Tenth cavalry had died
as a result of injuries received in a
train wreck. General Funston has not
asked any extension of his base hospi-
tal facilities.

El Paso, March 29.—Supplies to Ameri-
can troops will begin to go forward on
the Mexican Northwestern railroad with-
in a few hours after General Bell has
received official notification of the con-
sent of General Carranza to use the
road. General Bell expressed the great-
est gratification over the news.

San Antonio, Texas, March 29.—General
Carranza's permission to ship supplies
over the Mexican Northwestern railroad
to the American troops in Mexico was re-
ceived at General Funston's headquarters
with rejoicing, but this manifestation of
pleasure was tempered by the news that
the supplies must be consigned as ordi-
nary freight to some individual not con-
nected with the army.

Disappointment of staff officers at head-
quarters was unquenched. They had ex-
pected the de facto government of Mexi-
co to give unqualified consent to the use
of the Northwestern. The first shipment
will be sent from Juarez to Casas Grandes
and from there distributed by motor
and wagon trains to the detachments that
are hunting the trails a hundred and fifty
miles to the south.

General Pershing reported to General
Funston early today the positions were
not revealed. Villa, he said, had last been
reported in the Santa Mari valley, where
he was said to be among friends who
were making it difficult for the scouts to
learn anything regarding his movements.

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learn anything regarding his movements.

THREE LEIGHTONS
INDICTED FOR 1ST
DEGREE MURDER

Charged with Killing A. C. Gib-
son—Elder Leigh-
ton Has Been Placed
on Trial.

Woodstock, March 29.—In the cases of
Charles, Walter and Newell Leighton of
Sharon, the grand jury last night brought
in a true bill indicting all three for
murder in the first degree, charging the
killing of A. C. Gibson on February 21.
When Windsor county court convened
at 10 o'clock this morning Charles
Leighton, the father, pleaded not guilty to
the indictment and his trial was begun.
The day was spent in examining prospec-
tive jurors.

APPROVES INCREASE.

Commission Authorizes Bethel Tel. &
Tel. Co. to Issue \$30,000 Stock.

Bethel, March 29.—The Vermont
Public Service Commission today an-
nounced that it has authorized the Bethel
Telephone and Telegraph company to issue
\$30,000 of additional stock. The com-
pany desires to purchase the telephone
plant and property which is owned by
M. H. Hazen of South Royalton as an
individual under the name of the Rapid
Telephone company.

The commission has also had certified
the amendment of the charter of the
Bethel Telephone company increasing the
capital stock from \$10,000 to \$30,000.

PROGRESSIVES TO MEET
AT BURLINGTON MAY 24

Montpelier, March 29.—The State
convention of the Progressive party to
choose delegates to the national con-
vention will be held at Burlington
May 24. The date was decided on by
the executive committee to-night.

CHILDREN HAVE RAISED \$1,000.
The children's festival of the Center
Congregational Church, Brattleboro,
netted \$149 for missionary work. Eight
fairly have netted over \$1,000.

SENATE ARMY BILL
CALLS FOR PEACE
ARMY OF 175,000

Also for Federal Volunteer
Force of 261,000 and Na-
tional Guard of
280,000.

Washington, March 29.—Consideration
of the army increase bill, the first of the
big national defense measures, began in
the Senate today with republicans join-
ing the democrats in expressing the hope
that it might be disposed of as quickly
as possible.

Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the
military committee, introduced the mea-
sure, which is a substitute for the Hay
bill passed by the House, and made a
lengthy address explaining its provisions.
When the bill had been read it was laid
aside to permit senators to familiarize
themselves with it. To-morrow it will be
called up for reading by sections, and is
to be kept constantly before the Senate
until passed. Senator Chamberlain an-
nounced he would ask for night sessions
unless progress was made without them.

Senator Borah gave notice that he
would fight the national guard pro-
visions. He does not believe the na-
tional guard should be used as a basis
for a reserve force and favors instead
the provision for creation and the
training of a volunteer force under the
supervision of federal army officers.

The chief aim of the Senate sub-
stitute is to increase the peace strength
of the regular standing army to 175-
000 men. It also provides for a federal
volunteer force of 261,000 men, and
the national guard of 280,000, which
would be placed under federal control
and participate in federal appropriations.

Northfield Grange Incorporates.

Montpelier, March 29.—The Northfield
Grange, Inc., with \$5,000 capital stock,
divided into 50 shares, organized to
maintain a secret society for the social,
educational and agricultural advancement
of the community, has filed articles of
association with the secretary of state.
The incorporators are Heber M. Dole,
B. A. Stockwell, C. B. Johnson and
William C. White, all of Northfield.

SUBMARINES TREAT
BELLIGERENTS AND
NEUTRALS ALIKE

Increasing Evidence That Ger-
many's Present Undersea
Campaign Respects No Na-
tionality.

SITUATION GROWING SERIOUS

State Department Hears Teu-
tons' Submersible Commad-
ers Are Acting under Secret
Instructions Such as Von Tir-
pitz Advocated.

Washington, March 29.—The accumu-
lation of circumstantial evidence in-
dicating that Germany has engaged
upon a campaign of submarine warfare
which has no regard for the rights of
American citizens traveling on mer-
chant ships of belligerent nationality,
the administration considers, has cre-
ated one of the most serious situations
which has confronted the United States
since the beginning of the war in Eu-
rope.

Every agency open to the state de-
partment to-night was being employed
in an effort to gather an unimpeach-
able array of facts regarding the ex-
ploding ship, the British channel steamer
Sussex, the sinking of the British ship
Lusitania, and the alleged firing of a torpedo
at the French passenger ship Patria. All
these ships carried American citizens,
and all apparently were attacked in
violation of Germany's recently re-
newed assurances to the United States.

The next step of the United States
is authorized to have been deter-
mined by the state department. In re-
ply to the inquiries made by the United
States through Ambassador Gerard,
makes some statement to cause the state
department to change its present inter-
pretation. It is understood that all the recent
aggravating incidents will be combined
into one general formidable indictment
which will bring the entire subject to a
clear-cut issue.

Should Germany admit responsibility
for any of the attacks and attempt to
satisfy the United States by saying that
a mistake had been made and by offering
to make reparation and to punish the
responsible commander, the issue would
not be any means be disposed of. It is
regarded as certain that the United States
will not accept such an explanation as
satisfactory, at least until time had shown
what punishment actually was meted out
to the offending submarine commander,
and whether any value longer could be at-
tributed to Germany's promises.

In the event of Germany's disclaiming
responsibility for the disasters, the United
States will proceed with its investigations
to determine to its own satisfaction
whether the evidence, which now strongly
indicates that the Sussex and other
ships were torpedoed without warning, can
be regarded as conclusive proof. With-
out such proof before it, the government prob-
ably would not promptly. Officials refrain
from discussing what the nature of the
action would be.

The very number of apparently un-
warranted attacks which recently have
occurred is regarded by the administration
as particularly significant. The num-
ber is only by officials to have dis-
missed the theory that the explosions might
have been caused by mines. Some of the
cases, it was pointed out, have occurred
in localities where there is no possibility
of mine fields having been laid, because
of the depth of the water and the distance
from shore.

It became known to-day that the state
department had heard unofficially the
suggestion that German submarine com-
manders were acting under secret in-
structions, such as were advocated by
Grand Admiral Von Tirpitz, to torpedo
every vessel, neutral as well as belligerent,
approaching the British isles.

As the United States was advised the
new orders to submarines which were
into effect March 1 provided for the at-
tack without warning of all armed mer-
chantmen of the entente allies. There
has been no official confirmation of the
secret order reported.

What is described in high adminis-
tration circles as the extreme gravity of
the situation makes it necessary for the
United States to proceed with the most
care in preparing for the next step,
the essential facts in each case de-
veloped from the best testimony and
evidence available.

While all the recent cases under in-
vestigation will play important parts in
the final consideration of the situation,
the case of the Sussex undoubtedly will
form the cardinal feature. Officials are
impressed with the completeness of the
evidence available regarding details of
the Sussex's destruction, and particularly
with the fragments of metal which were
found and which have been described as
parts of a torpedo.

These pieces of metal
will be examined by American experts.
Count von Bernstorff, the German am-
bassador, returned to Washington to-
night from a visit to New York. He said
he had no word from his government
relating to the recent developments.

First official information concerning
the sinking of the Eagle Point was con-
tained in a dispatch received late in the day
from Consul Frost at Quenawton. This
read as follows:

"British steamer Eagle Point torpedoed
yesterday without warning 100 miles from
land. All saved. One American."

Consul Frost immediately was in-
structed to gather additional infor-
mation.

Further state department despatches
to-day regarding the sinking of the

(Continued on page four).

HAPPENINGS IN VT.;
NEWS BY COUNTIES

ADDISON COUNTY

MIDDLEBURY.

Napoleon LaFrance of Ripton died of
metastasis at his home Wednesday March
29 at the age of 71 years. He is sur-
vived by a wife, four sons, Lewis and
John LaFrance of Rutland, George La-
France of Burlington and Albert La-
France of Syracuse, N. Y., and three
daughters, Mrs. Emma Goddard of Ripton,
Mrs. Nellie Flynn of Albany, N. Y., and
Mrs. Blanche Woodbury of Shrewsbury.
A sister, Mrs. Joseph Dandrow of New-
port, N. H., and two brothers, Abraham
LaFrance of Fiskeville and Eugene La-
France of White Bear Lake, Minn. Mr.
LaFrance was a well known man
throughout the State and for a number
of years has run the hotel in that village
known as the Maple Inn. The funeral
was held in this village at St. Mary's
Catholic Church at nine o'clock Satur-
day morning and the interment was in
the Catholic cemetery. A large num-
ber of the members of the church and
parish of the Congregational Church gave
a farewell reception to the Rev. and
Mrs. A. A. Lancaster in the church
vestry last Thursday evening. He
leaves to assume his duties as pastor of
the Pilgrimage Congregational Church at
Yonkstown, Ohio, April 1.

The Rev. S. Kay Darling of South
Hanson, Mass., has accepted a call from
the First Congregational Church in Corn-
wall and will begin his labors there April
1. The annual meeting of the road
commissioners and selectmen of Addison
county will be held in the town hall
Thursday, April 3 at 10 o'clock forenoon
and an afternoon session will be held
at 1:30 o'clock. The public is invited to
attend. Mrs. Noah Winsell, who returned
from the Fanny Allen hospital a few days
ago, where she underwent a serious
operation, is rapidly recovering and is
able to ride out a little each day. William
Glancy and John M. Wright, who spent
most of the winter here, have gone to
Middletown, N. Y.—Thomas M. Riley, who
got the toes of his left foot badly crushed
at the pulp mill several days ago, is able
to resume work for a week or two.
George W. Woods of Southbridge, Mass.,
is in town to visit friends for a couple
of weeks.—Howard H. Cornell of St.
Johns, N. B. is visiting in town and ex-
pects to remain until about May 1.

Attorney Ira H. LaFrance has announced
his candidacy for election as town repre-
sentative from Middlebury in the next
Legislature. Quite a number of farmers
in this section tapped their maple trees on
Friday and Saturday and the movement
will become general within a few days
if the present favorable weather con-
tinues. There is a large amount of snow
in the sugar orchards, almost more than
the sugar makers want, as last year they
had too little. The present conditions
point to an unusually heavy run of sap.
—Fred W. Hammond, superintendent
of the United States Morgan Horse
farm, who was severely injured
last week by a fall on the ice, is slowly
recovering and is able to ride out a little.—Col.
and Mrs. S. A. Isley are in New York city.
Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Mayo are
parents of a son, born at their home in
Northfield. Mrs. Mayo was Miss Prudence
Sturkey, who has many friends in this
vicinity.

At the services at the Congrega-
tional Church Sunday the Rev. A. A. Lan-
caster expressed his appreciation of

the many kindnesses which have come
to him and his family during the nearly
five years of his pastorate. The
Rev. Mr. Lancaster and family went
Wednesday to Montreal, where Mrs.
Lancaster and the children will remain
for some time. Mr. Lancaster will
go from there to Youngstown, Ohio, at
the end of the week, to begin his pas-
torate at Plymouth Church. The mem-
bers of the committee appointed on the
business of securing a new pastor are:
Arthur W. Eddy, chairman, Prof. Er-
nest C. Bryant, E. B. Cornwell, Charles
E. Harris, Frank J. Hubbard, Prof. Ed-
ward Collins, Julius O. Seeley, Jr., Miss
Susan B. Parker and Mrs. A. W. Dick-
ens.—Frank Collins, sexton Sunday
Presidents, H. L. where he has a mar-
ried sister and where his mother has
been all winter.—Miss Minnie Dodge
has gone to Rutland and is visiting at
the home of relatives, Mr. and Mrs.
Charles B. Dodge.—Miss Isabelle Car-
riean has gone to Pittsford to spend
a few days at the home of her father,
Thomas Carriean.—Mrs. E. H. Farn-
ham returned to Sudbury after a
visit here at the home of her mother,
Mrs. Jones. Her daughter, Margaret,
has come for a few days' visit.—Mrs.
O. P. Moore has gone to New York
called by the serious illness of her
daughter, Mrs. Merrill Lane.—Mrs. N.
R. Caldwell has returned to Groton af-
ter spending a few days with her par-
ents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Keese.—Mrs.
John Proctor and two grandsons,
Fletcher Taylor and Frederick Bissett,
have returned from Burlington, where
they have been for a few days.—Miss
Myrtle B. Hill, a teacher in the high
school, Woodstock, is in town to visit
her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hill.
William Merritt has returned from
Rutland, where he spent a week.
Gilbert Dumas has returned from Rut-
land, where he has been on a visit to
his daughter, Mrs. Frank Loomis, for
a few days.—Miss Rena O'Brien, a
teacher in the high school at North-
ampton, Mass., is in town to visit her
parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hanson O'Brien.
Wright Caswell, of the firm of Stokes
& Co., while at work at the freight depot
Monday afternoon unloading automobiles
and had left his car caught between the
curb and an automobile and badly
crushed.—Miss Anna Sanderson of Bur-
lington is in town to visit at the home
of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. E.
Turner, and her grandfather, Col.
Charles T. Yount.—John Lovett and
daughter have gone to Rutland for a
few days.—The Young People's society of
the Memorial Baptist Church will hold a
social party in the parlors of the church
Friday evening.—James Rogers and son,
William, have gone to Rutland.—Mrs.
Henry Gerow has gone to Schenectady,
N. Y., called there by the serious illness
of her sister.—Mrs. Rose Haden, who
sold her farm just south of this village
a few weeks ago, sold at auction the
stock and household goods on Tuesday,
and expects to leave soon for Ohio, her
former home, where she will live.—
Miss Alice Buciant of Florence, Italy,
gave a song recital at the home of Mrs.
E. M. Saunders on North Pleasant street,
with Mrs. J. E. Field as accompanist.
The recital was given under the
auspices of Ethel Allen Chapter, D.
A. R. A. good-sized silver collection
was received, which will help toward
the purchase of a marker to be erected in
Middlebury for Revolutionary soldiers.
Arrangements have been made whereby
the Rev. Charles M. Crooks of the Old

London, March 29.—The Germans to the
northwest of Verdun in an infantry at-
tack started with huge offensives have
gained additional ground against the
French north of Malancourt and have
even penetrated the northwest corner of
the village.

The attempts of the Teutons to carry
their advance farther, however, were
stopped by the French fire as also were
three counter attacks against the posi-
tions in the Avocourt wood, south of
Malancourt, which had previously been
taken from them by a French infantry
attack. The German official communi-
cation says that the advance of the Ger-
mans north of Malancourt was over a
front of more than a mile.

During the German offensive on Malan-
court the French heavy guns from the
Argonne were directing their fire on the
Malancourt and Avocourt woods.

Aside from the infantry attacks and
counter attacks in this region a heavy
bombardment has been in progress from
Avocourt northward to Bethcourt, a
distance of five miles. There has also
been a continuation of the sporadic out-
bursts of artillery fire to the north and
east of Verdun; while in the Vosges
mountains the French batteries have been
keeping up their bombardment of Ger-
man organizations.

In military operations in the Argonne
the French have blown up German posi-
tions and between the Oise and the Aisne
have dispersed German convoys with their
guns. The Germans claim that in a hand
to hand encounter they recaptured from
the British a mine crater at St. Eloi.
The British declare they have con-
solidated all the ground gained on March
27.

Although a thaw has set in on the
Russian front and the rivers are flooded
and the lowlands turned into morasses,
hard fighting between the Germans and
Russians continues from the Dvinsk re-
gion southward. Near Lake Narocz the
Germans have been driven out of a
wooded sector and their counter attack
repulsed by the Russian fire. German
trenches have been taken by the Rus-
sians in the Olsinski canal region.

The Russians have been on the offen-
sive along the Strpa river region and
on the Bessarabia front. In the latter
region the Russian artillery is very ac-
tive.

The repulse of vicious Italian attacks
on the north slope of San Michele and
near San Martino on the Austro-Italian
line is chronicled by Vienna. Austrian
airmen have bombed Italian railway
lines in Venetia.

The Greek government has protested
to the central powers against the air
raid made over Saloniki last Monday,
which 20 persons were killed. Saloniki,
says the Teutons, lost four of the seven
machines which delivered the attack, to-
gether with their crews.

The Turks turned to the offensive
against the Russians in the coastal sec-
tor of the Caucasus, but the Russians
beat them off with heavy casualties and
forced them to retreat.

The Russian war minister, General
Polivanoff, who has held office for the
last nine months, has retired at his own
request, according to an unofficial de-
spatch from Petrograd, which adds that
General Chouvaloff, who was the war
office, has succeeded him.

SMOTHERED TO DEATH.

Bodies of Aged Couple to Be Brought
to Stowe.

Mansfield, Mass., March 29.—In a fire
early yesterday that destroyed their home
Mr. and Mrs. Lyman H. Atkins, an aged
couple of this place, lost their lives, both
probably having been overcome by smoke
while they slept.

The fire started it is thought from a
derangement of one of the many incu-
bators that were kept about the place. Mr.
Atkins and W. H. Allen were partners in
a poultry business, and the incubators
were kept in the cellar.

Mr. and Mrs. Atkins were about 70 years
old. Mrs. Atkins' body was found in bed,
but its position indicated that she had
tried to rise. The body of the man was
found until the floor gave way, when it
fell into the cellar.

Stowe, March 29.—Mrs. Fred E. Smith
received word to-day that her uncle and
aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Lyman H. Atkins of
Mansfield, Mass., had been burned to
death and that their bodies will be
brought to Stowe Saturday. The funeral
will probably be held Sunday at the Con-
gregational Church. Mr. Atkins passed
his early life in Stowe. He was born May
16, 1847, and was the son of Mr. and Mrs.
Hial Atkins, for many years well known
residents of Stowe. A daughter, Miss
Ella Atkins, and two sisters, Mrs. Lucie
Gorton of Hampton, Va., and Mrs. Julia
Irving of Burlington, survive. Mrs. Irving
is in Smyrna, Fla., where she has passed
the winter.

GERMANS ADVANCE
OVER MILE FRONT
IN VERDUN REGION

Infantry Penetrates Northwest
Corner of Village of Malan-
court and Is There Checked
by French.

BOMBARDMENTS KEEP UP

Turks Turn Unsuccessfully to
Offensive in the Caucasus—
Thaw Sets In on Russian
Front Which Is Hampering
Operations.

London, March 29.—The Germans to the
northwest of Verdun in an infantry at-
tack started with huge offensives have
gained additional ground against the
French north of Malancourt and have
even penetrated the northwest corner of
the village.

The attempts of the Teutons to carry
their advance farther, however, were
stopped by the French fire as also were
three counter attacks against the posi-
tions in the Avocourt wood, south of
Malancourt, which had previously been
taken from them by a French infantry
attack. The German official communi-
cation says that the advance of the Ger-
mans north of Malancourt was over a
front of more than a mile.

During the German offensive on Malan-
court the French heavy guns from the
Argonne were directing their fire on the
Malancourt and Avocourt woods.

Aside from the infantry attacks and
counter attacks in this region a heavy
bombardment has been in progress from
Avocourt northward to Bethcourt, a
distance